

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
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AMCONSUL STUTTGART
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, PINT, NATO, GW, FR
SUBJECT: CSU ORGAN CARRIES TENDENTIOUS ARTICLE ON U.S. POLICY
ON DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE

1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. SEPTEMBER 3 ISSUE OF CSU ORGAN "BAYERN KURIER" CARRIES ARTICLE WHICH ATTEMPTS, BY CITING EVANS/NOVAK ARTICLES AND CONGRESSMAN ASPIN'S STATEMENTS ABOUT POSSIBLE INADEQUACIES OF XM-1 TANK, TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT U.S. COMMITMENT TO FORWARD DEFENSE OF FRG IS UNRELIABLE. IN VIEW OF THIS ALLEGED U.S. UNRELIABILITY, ARTICLE ADVOCATES REPLACEMENT OF PRESENT NATO FORWARD DEFENSE STRATEGY (VORNEVERTEIDIGUNG) WITH A EUROPEAN DOMINATED "OFFENSIVE DEFENSE" (VORWAERTSVERTEIDIGUNG), WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE 16 FRENCH DIVISIONS. ARTICLE REFLECTS NEO-GAULLIST SENTIMENTS WHICH ARE NOT REPEAT
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NOT UNCOMMON IN CSU. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PAGE 3 ARTICLE ENTITLED "FORWARD DEFENSE AT THE WESER AND LECH?" AND SUBTITLED "CONSIDERATIONS WHICH MUST SHAKE WESTERN EUROPE FROM ITS SLEEP," BAYERN KURIER CORRESPONDENT PETER HORNUNG PUTS FORWARD THESIS THAT U.S. COMMITMENT TO FORWARD DEFENSE OF FRG IS UNRELIABLE. HE CITES EVANS/NOVAK COLUMNS

ON PRM-10, PENTAGON'S ESTIMATE THAT IT WOULD TAKE ADDITIONAL \$30 BILLION TO PERFECT NATO'S FORWARD DEFENSE CAPABILITIES IN FRG, AND CONGRESSMAN ASPIN'S ALLEGED CLAIMS THAT XM-1 TANK NEEDS NINE HOURS SERVICING FOR EVERY FIVE HOURS OF OPERATION AS CLAR INDICATIONS OF U.S. UNRELIABILITY. HORNUNG IS CAREFUL, HOWEVER, NOT REPEAT NOT TO QUESTION SINCERITY OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO FORWARD DEFENSE OF FRG.

3. HORNUNG INTERPRETS THE PRESENT "REFORGER" EXERCISE AS EFFORT BY U.S. TO REMOVE DOUBTS ABOUT U.S. MILITARY CAPABILITIES IN EUROPE WHICH WERE AWAKENED BY PRM-10 AS WELL AS PENTAGON STUDY INDICATING THAT A VIABLE FORWARD DEFENSE WOULD REQUIRE EXPENDITURE OF \$30 BILLION.

4. HORNUNG PUTS HIS CONCLUSION INTO MOUTH OF GENERAL DEGAULLE WHO IS CITED AS JUSTIFYING FRANCE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM JOINT NATO MILITARY COMMAND BY POINTING OUT THAT SINCE AMERICANS IN EUROPE WOULD ALWAYS FIGHT AN AMERICAN WAR, EUROPEANS SHOULD ORGANIZE THEIR SECURITY THEMSELVES.

5. IN CONCLUSION, HORNUNG CALLS FOR A "EUROPEAN INITIATIVE" (TO BE TAKEN IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH U.S.) WHICH WOULD REPLACE PRESENT NATO FORWARD DEFENSE STRATEGY (VORNEVERTEIDIGUNG) WITH A EUROPEAN-DOMINATED STRATEGY OF "OFFENSIVE DEFENSE" (VORWAERTSVERTEIDIGUNG) WHIWOULD INCORPORATE 16 FRENCH DIVISIONS INTO REVAMPED EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORT.
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6. COMMENT. IN CONGEN'S VIEW, HORNUNG'S ARTICLE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE INTERPRETED AS OFFICIAL VIEW OF CSU. HORNUNG IS NOT REPEAT NOT A MEMBER OF BAYERN KURIER'S EDITORIAL BOARD.

NONETHELESS, HORNUNG'S TENDENTIOUS READING OF U.S. DEFENSE POLICY TOWARD EUROPE REFLECTS "RESENTMENT OF DOMINANT U.S. ROLE IN NATO DEFENSE EFFORT WHICH MIGHT BE CHARACTERIZED AS "NEO-GAULLIST." SUCH "NEO-GAULLIST" VIEWS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT UNCOMMON IN CSU.
GILMORE

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